

Jefferson Military College
Washington, Miss.

H. A. B. S. No. Miss-4

HABS
MISS.

1- WASH

2A.
2c

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
A. Hays Town, District Officer
713 Standard Life Building
Jackson, Miss.

X

HABS
MISS.

1- WASH

2A -
2-

JEFFERSON MILITARY COLLEGE
Washington, Adams County, Mississippi

Owner (Or Custodian)

Date of Erection

FOUNDED 1802 BUILT 1817

Architect

Builder

Present Condition

Fair

Number of Stories

Three

Materials of Construction

<u>Foundation</u>	Brick
<u>Floors</u>	Wood
<u>Exterior Walls</u>	Brick
<u>Interior Walls</u>	Plastered
<u>Roof</u>	

Other Existing Records

Additional Data

General Andrew Jackson camped here with his troops in 1815. Jefferson Military College is the oldest literary institution in the southwest.

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Adams County

Jefferson College
(Jefferson Military College)
North Street
Washington
Adams County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-4

HABS
MISS.
1 - WASH.
2 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JEFFERSON COLLEGE (Jefferson Military College) HABS NO. MS-4

HABS
MISS
1-WASH,
2-
pg. 2

Location: North Street, Washington, Adams County,
Mississippi

Present Owner and use: Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571,
Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Parts of the
buildings are used for interpretative purposes
and for administration. Other areas are
under consideration for lease for adaptive
reuse.

Significance: Jefferson College dates from 1802 and was the
scene of several important events during the
early years of the nation. Mississippi's first
constitution was written and signed in the old
Methodist Church, now demolished, which was
located on the college campus. (See HABS No.
MS-6) In 1807 Aaron Burr was arraigned for
treason on the grounds. Jefferson Davis was
a student at the college in 1818.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1817, 1838, 1839, 1894
2. Architect: Levi Weeks, architect for the East Wing (1817).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete
chain of title to the land on which Jefferson College stands.
Real estate transactions are partially listed from 1804 when the
land was originally conveyed to the college, from 1966 when the
Trustees of the college conveyed the land to the State of
Mississippi, and from 1971 when the State of Mississippi conveyed
the land to the State Department of Archives and History. For
further reference see: Deed Book BB, Deed Book 11-W, Deed Book
10-K, County Tax Map 177, Block 1, Parcel 7 of the records of
Adams County.

March 31, 1804 John Foster to the Trustees of Jefferson College
Consideration \$200 Conveys: nineteen acres and
one hundred and twenty one perches.

March 31, 1804 James Foster to the Trustees of Jefferson
College Consideration \$200 Conveys: twelve acres
and fifty eight perches.

April 16, 1966 Trustees of Jefferson College to the State of
Mississippi (For and in consideration of the
payment of all debts of the Trustees of Jeffer-
son College) Conveys: the college grounds

August 12, 1971 The State of Mississippi to the Department of Archives and History for good and valuable consideration Conveys: "The property in Adams County, Mississippi formerly vested on the State of Mississippi."

4. Builders:

1817	Lewis Evans	Structure : East Wing
1838	Montgomery & Keyes	Structure: West Wing and West Kitchen
1839	Seaman & Smith	Structure: East Kitchen
1894	P. O Murry	Structure: Gymnasium

5. Original plans and construction: The original plan was for a single building, later called the East Wing. It was constructed in 1817. A temporary wood-frame building preceded it. In 1838 the West Wing was erected. the two "wings" were subsequently connected by a Romanesque-Colonial revival gynmasium in 1894. Each wing is five bays wide and three and one-half stories high. The design of the wings is based on late Georgian domestic architecture. The brick is laid in Flemish bond. Also located on the grounds are the President's House, HABS No. MS-5; Raymond Hall, HABS No. MS-4-B; and the kitchens , HABS No. MS-4-A. The old Methodist Church , HABS No. MS-6, now demolished, was also located on the grounds.
6. Alterations and additions: As noted above, the two original "wing" buildings were connected in 1894 when a gymnasium was erected between them. The architect is in doubt and might have been either C.R. Purnell or H. K Ketteringham. Each of these architects was paid for drawings and specifications. The gymnasium was removed in 1972 as a part of restoration to a period prior to 1894. Exterior restoration has now been completed. Interior restoration is partially completed. Adaptive reuse is under consideration for several unused spaces including the President's house currently. (1985)

B. Historical Context:

The first Mississippi constitution was written and signed in the old Methodist Church in 1817. Distinguished members of the college's Board of Trustees included Governors W..C. Claiborne, Robert Williams, David Holmes, Walter Leake and George Poindexter, Senator Thomas Reed and General Thomas Hinds. Jefferson Davis was a student at the college in 1818. In 1807 Aaron Burr was arraigned for treason in a court building (no longer extant) on the college grounds.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The East and West Wings are good examples of late Georgian architecture. Of special note are the doorways with semi-circular transoms and flanking engaged columns. The keystones are carved stone. The arched dormers are elliptical.
2. Condition of fabric: The buildings are in good, stable condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The two major, wing buildings are each five bays wide, rectangular and three and one-half stories high.
2. Foundations: The foundations are constructed with common bond brick capped with a molded brick watertable.
3. Walls: The walls are constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond on the main facade and common bond on the rear and side elevations.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick walls
5. Porches, balconies: The East and West Wings had three bay porches and balconies covered with a shed roof installed in 1895 and removed in 1972. Iron columns, capitals and railings were used instead of wood. Secondary buildings re fitted with porches and covered balconies.
6. Chimneys: Each of the wing buildings have two end and two interior chimneys.
7. Openings: Each wing has double-leaf doors topped by semi-circular transoms decorated with a heavy architrave and keystone. Engaged columns, somewhat provincial in their proportions and detail, flank the doors and support an entablature. Each West Wing door has four panels, each East Wing door has eight panels. The windows are topped with jack arches and carved marble keystones.
8. Roof: The roofs are low-pitched with gables slightly lower than the parapet wall. Roofs are covered with slate. The cornice is articulated with bricks set on edge, creating a "houndstooth" effect. Each of the two wing buildings has three dormers with elliptically curved hoods. The curve is repeated in the upper range of lights.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: East Wing: A central stair hall divides a large classroom on the east from four small rectangular chambers and a passage on the west. West Wing: A central stair hall again divides the building.
2. Stairways: Open-well staircases with two flights per floor were used in each main building. Many of the original balusters remain in place.
3. Flooring: Brick was occasionally used at the first floor level. Cypress is used in all other areas.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are covered with plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Paneled doors are hung in simple architraves with molded backband.
6. Decorative features: The finest original mantel has reeded pilasters which support a wide, five-part frieze capped by a deep shelf.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design. Nineteenth century prints of Jefferson College show an enclosed ellipse of cedars, roses, and laurea mundi planted symmetrically about a Magnolia tree.
2. Outbuildings: See above, PART I, A, 5. Original plans and construction for outbuildings.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. National Register File, Adams County, Jefferson College.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. "The Buildings and Grounds of Jefferson College in the Nineteenth Century," Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian, November 1971.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Elbert R. Hilliard, Director. Data compiled by William C. Allen, Architectural Historian. 1974

Edited by Marion K. Schlefer, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 1985.